Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims to be as follows.

1. (currently amended) A system for power management of a ~~group~~ rack of computers, the system comprising:

server side infrastructure (SSI) circuitry at each computer in the ~~group~~ rack, the SSI circuitry including local monitoring circuitry coupled to a central processing unit (CPU) of the computer; and

a centralized power management module (CPMM) with an out-of-band management link to the SSI circuitry at each computer in the ~~group~~ rack,

wherein the local circuitry at each computer in the ~~group~~ rack monitors power consumption at the CPU and transmits power consumption data to the CPMM, and

wherein the CPMM applies a set of rules to the power consumption data to determine when and at which computers to enable and disable a CPU power throttling mode.

2. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the ~~group~~ rack of computers comprise[[s]] ~~multiple~~ servers mounted in [[a]] the rack.

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the ~~group~~ rack of computers comprise[[s]] a plurality of blade servers in a blade chassis.

4. (canceled)

5. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a console coupled to the CPMM for user interaction.

6. (original) The system of claim 5, wherein the console comprises a console connected locally to the CPMM.

7. (original) The system of claim 5, wherein the console comprises a remote console coupled via a network to the CPMM.

8. (original) The system of claim 5, wherein the system is configured to enable a user to setup the aforementioned rules by way of the console.

9. (original) The system of claim 5, wherein the system is configured to enable a user to view power consumption data by way of the console.

10. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
additional CPMMs with management links to SSI circuitry at additional ~~groups~~ racks of computers; and
a power management system coupled to the plurality of CPMMs.

11. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein the power management system is configured to enable a user to view power consumption data and to customize the sets of rules applied by the CPMMs.

12. (currently amended) A server-side apparatus for a rack-mounted computer, the apparatus comprising:
a local monitoring circuitry coupled to a central processing unit (CPU) of the computer and coupled to a centralized power management system which is configured to manage power for a rack of computers,
wherein the local circuitry is configured to monitor power consumption at the CPU, transmit power consumption data to the centralized power management system, receive out-of-band management messages from the centralized power management system, and send commands to enable and disable a power throttling mode at the CPU.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:
a power measurement link between the local monitoring circuitry and the CPU for monitoring power consumption at the CPU.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
an interrupt line between the local monitoring circuitry and the CPU for transmitting interrupt messages that enable and disable the power throttling mode at the CPU.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
a special register writable by the local monitoring circuitry and readable by the CPU to enable and disable the power throttling mode at the CPU.

16. (currently amended) A central power management apparatus for a ~~group~~ rack of computers ~~mounted in a rack~~, the apparatus comprising:
a management module coupled via an out-of-band link to local monitoring circuitry at each computer in the ~~group~~ rack,
wherein the management module is configured to receive power consumption data from the local monitoring circuitry, determine at which computers to enable and disable a CPU power throttling mode, and transmit messages to said determined computers to enable and disable the CPU power throttling mode.

17. (currently amended) A method for power management of a ~~group~~ rack of computers, the method comprising:
monitoring power consumption at each computer in the ~~group~~ rack; and
transmitting power consumption data from each computer in the ~~group~~ rack to a single centralized power manager.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

transmitting messages via an out-of-band link from the centralized power manager to local circuitry at said determined computers to enable and disable the CPU power throttling mode at those computers; and

applying a configurable set of rules to the power consumption data to determine at which computers to enable and disable a CPU power throttling mode.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the ~~group~~ rack of computers comprises a rack of servers~~, and the centralized power manager comprises a rack-level power manager~~.

20. (currently amended) A centralized method for managing power consumption of a ~~group~~ rack of computers, the method comprising:

receiving power consumption data via an out-of-band link from local monitoring circuitry at each of the computers in the rack;

determining at which computers to enable and disable a CPU power throttling mode; and

transmitting messages via the out-of-band link to said determined computers to enable and disable the CPU power throttling mode.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the ~~group~~ rack of computers comprises a rack of servers.

22. (currently amended) A power management apparatus for managing power usage of a ~~group~~ rack of computers ~~at a rack-level~~, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving power consumption data from the local monitoring circuitry;

means for determining at which computers to enable and disable a CPU power throttling mode; and

means for transmitting messages to said determined computers to enable and disable the CPU power throttling mode.

23. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein ~~the group of computers comprises a rack of servers~~ the means for transmitting messages comprise out-of-band links to the local monitoring circuitry.